

LS 6-0064

12 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CIA Briefings of Joint Committee on Atomic Energy

1. There was no requirement in the 1946 Atomic Energy Act for agencies to furnish information to the Joint Committee. The CIA briefings on nuclear intelligence grew out of an agreement between Senator Hickenlooper and Admiral Killenkoetter. The 1954 amendments to the Atomic Energy Act are somewhat different in this regard.

2. The Act provides that the Joint Committee shall make continuing studies of the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission and of problems relating to the development, use, and control of atomic energy. The Committee shall conduct hearings for the purpose of receiving information concerning the development, growth, and state of the atomic energy industry. The Act further provides that "any Government agency shall furnish any information requested by the Joint Committee with respect to the activities or responsibilities of that agency in the field of atomic energy." This statutory mandate is, therefore, limited to the field of atomic energy. Even though guided missiles might carry nuclear warheads, intelligence on the state of development of guided missiles would seem to be no more a problem relating to the development, use, and control of atomic energy than would intelligence on the state of foreign shipping fleets just because they might be powered by atomic engines.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

cc: DD/I
Legislative Counsel
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